

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1-21. (Cancelled).

22. (Currently Amended) A method of making a lithiated gamma-manganese dioxide for a primary lithium battery comprising:

~~contacting~~ heating and stirring a slurry of a gamma-manganese dioxide ~~with a lithium source in an aqueous solution of a lithium salt~~ at a lithiation temperature of between 40°C and 120°C to provide a lithiated gamma-manganese dioxide having about 0.22 mole of lithium per mole of manganese dioxide; and

heating the lithiated gamma-manganese dioxide at a temperature of between 150° and 500°c to remove residual and surface water to produce a dried lithiated gamma-manganese dioxide ~~having an X-ray diffraction pattern of gamma-manganese dioxide.~~

23. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 22, wherein the lithium ion source is an aqueous solution including a lithium salt.

24. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 22, wherein the lithium salt is a lithium hydroxide.

25. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 22, wherein the lithiation temperature is between 60°C and 100°C.

26-36. (Cancelled).